

B-52H Stratofortress⁴²

Figure 3. B-52H Stratofortress



Source: U.S. Air Force official website, B-52 Stratofortress Factsheet (<http://www.af.mil/information/factsheets/>).

The B-52 is currently the USAF's only nuclear bomber capable of employing long-range standoff weapons. It serves both as a nuclear and conventional bomber. It first entered operational service on June 29, 1955. The B-52's original service life expectancy was approximately 5,000 hours or approximately 20 years depending on severity of the flying environment. Of the 744 various

⁴² Information in this section is taken from Air Force Global Strike Command's, *B-52 Bomber Master Plan*, June 2012, *Air Force Almanac*, May 2012, and U.S. Air Force B-52 Fact Sheet, 4 December 2012, <http://www.af.mil/information/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=83>.